

May 10, 2013

**Please note that news sites update their hyperlinks, so it is advised that articles of interest be read soon as they might not be accessible later.**

### **Detroit Free Press: Court: Wayne County must pay \$32 million into 13th check fund**

"Cash-strapped Wayne County must pay \$32 million to bolster a fund that provides retirees with a 13th annual check, an appeals court ruled today. Retirees sued in 2010 after County Executive Robert Ficano and county commissioners passed an ordinance taking money from the fund to count toward the county's annual contribution to the retirement system."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

### **The Detroit News: Court: Ficano must repay \$32M he took from pensioners**

[Full story](#)

### **ABA Journal: Tyranny and 'dark money' in the Michigan Supreme Court? Former justice writes a book**

"The intrigue includes untraceable 'dark money,' abuse of power, and a secret club holding sway over ordinary citizens. It's not a plot in a new crime novel, however. It's a book about the Michigan Supreme Court, written by one of its controversial former members, the Traverse City Record-Eagle reports."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

### **American Courthouse: She's Baaaack!**

[Full story](#)

### **C & G Newspapers/Warren: Appeals court rules Troy is building transit center on land city doesn't own**

"The future of the Troy Transit Center is unclear after the Michigan Court of Appeals ruled last week that the city doesn't own the land where the transit center is currently being built.... The court's 3-0 decision has left Troy city officials wondering if they must pay for the site, which houses the half-built transit center."

[Full story](#)

### **C & G Newspapers/Warren: Sources say substance that closed court was baby powder**

"It turns out that a white powdery substance found in an envelope that resulted in the closure of the 37th District April 29 was only baby powder. The finding was confirmed by the court's Chief Judge John Chmura, who later in the day returned to the building with his staff to resume arraignment hearings for prisoners in custody."

[Full story](#)

### **The Daily News/Iron Mountain: Iron County opens courthouse during the lunch hour**

"Offices in the Iron County Courthouse will now be open for business through the lunch hour. Currently, the courthouse is open from 8 a.m. to noon and 12:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. During its monthly meeting on Thursday, the Iron County Board of Commissioners elected to change the hours to 8 a.m. to 4 p.m."

[Full story](#)

### **Detroit Legal News: Taking care of business: Judges Potts and Alexander to preside over county's new business court**

"The business of handling business disputes in Oakland County Circuit Court will change July 1 under provisions of a sweeping state law enacted last year.... Last month, the Michigan Supreme Court assigned Circuit Court Judges Wendy Potts and James Alexander to preside over the newly established 'business court' in Oakland County."

[Full story](#)

**Note: The article also ran in the Macomb County Legal News and the Oakland County Legal News.**

### **Detroit Legal News: 36th District Court targets people with outstanding tickets**

"36th District Court Chief Judge Kenneth J. King conducted show cause hearings Thursday to collect payment of outstanding tickets. Citizens with unpaid tickets are now being ordered to court to 'Show Cause' why they have not paid their tickets.... The 36th District Court began conducting 'Show Cause' hearings on March 28."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

### **WDIV-TV(4)/Detroit: Detroit court starts cracking down on old traffic tickets**

[Full story](#)

### **Detroit Legal News: Hamtramck offers amnesty in May**

"The City of Hamtramck and the 31st District Court are teaming up to offer a month long amnesty program titled, 'Make It Right In May'. This program will run from May 1 to May 31 and is designed to encourage individuals and businesses to 'make right' any outstanding violations they may have with the city or the court."

[Full story](#)

### **Flint-Genesee County Legal News: Switching Gears: Former prosecutor begins new role on county bench**

"While attending law school, Byron Konschuh envisioned a career combining his law degree with his future MBA, perhaps sitting behind a desk writing briefs, or doing research, or some sort of behind-the-scenes work in business.... What a difference a career makes. That shy, soft-spoken young lawyer later joined the Lapeer County Prosecutor's Office, working his way up to Lapeer County prosecutor, and now has become a Lapeer County Circuit Court judge."

[Full story](#)

### **Grand Rapids Legal News: McKeague portrait ceremony reveals effective and dedicated judicial career**

"According to speakers at the dedication ceremony for Judge David H. McKeague's official portrait Tuesday, he spent his judicial career being direct, hard-working, and incredibly effective.... Though McKeague is currently a judge for the United States Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, he spent the years 1992 to 2005 at the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Michigan."

[Full story](#)

### **The Herald-Palladium/St. Joseph: County unhappy with new MiCS system**

"Berrien County commissioners want assurances from the state that a court computer system being developed will deliver promised efficiencies. The county is serving as a pilot for the Michigan Court System, which is being implemented in phases. So far, officials say, the results have been disappointing."

[Full story](#)

### **The Herald-Palladium/St. Joseph: Prosecutor Art Cotter named judge**

"For 27 years Art Cotter has been striking out bad guys as part of the Berrien County prosecutor's office, including almost seven years as prosecutor. Now, following an appointment by Gov. Rick Snyder, he will be on the other side of the bench as a Berrien County Trial Court judge."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

### **Detroit Legal News: Snyder makes two judicial appointments**

[Full story](#)

### **MLive.com: Gov. Snyder taps Eaton County Prosecutor Jeffery Sauter for vacant 56th Circuit Court judgeship**

[Full story](#)

### **Hometown Life Newspapers: Old courthouse site draws 4 low-bid purchase offers**

"The former 47th District Court property owned by the city of Farmington has recently drawn attention — and multiple purchase offers — from prospective buyers. But for now, the 'For Sale' sign will remain on the property located on 10 Mile east of Farmington Road."

[Full story](#)

### **Jackson Citizen Patriot: Michigan Supreme Court hears arguments in Jackson armed robbery case; defendant trying to reduce prison sentence**

"The Michigan Supreme Court is to decide whether a 21-year-old's conduct during a Jackson armed robbery was designed to 'substantially increase the fear and anxiety' of his victims. If the high court finds Devon Glenn Jr.'s behavior had no such result, he could see his prison sentence reduced."

[Full story](#)

### **Jackson Citizen Patriot: PBS to feature Jackson dog and owner who work with Michigan Canine Advocacy Program**

"Going before a judge in a criminal case can be a traumatic experience for anyone — but for veterans returning home from war, the process can be even more difficult. That's where therapy dogs, like Mikki — a Newfoundland that lives in Parma — come in.... Mikki was one of two Michigan dogs chosen by PBS to be featured in a special that will be filmed on May 22."

[Full story](#)

### **Legal Newsline: Mich. appeals court says insurer shouldn't have to pay attorney fees**

"The Michigan Court of Appeals ruled this week that a lower court was wrong to make an insurer that already was ordered to shell out money for Medicare and personal injury protection payments to also pay a plaintiff's attorney fees."

[Full story](#)

### **The Macomb Daily: Macomb Township to review 41A Court finances again**

"For the second time in three years, Macomb Township officials hired an auditing firm to determine if hosting the 41A District Court makes economic sense. By a 7-0 vote Wednesday, the township Board of Trustees directed the Plante and Moran firm to conduct a second study of the court's finances."

[Full story](#)

### **The MiLW Blog: No-fault insurer seeks review of domicile case**

"A recent decision from the Court of Appeals debated the domicile of a migrant worker in the context of no-fault auto insurance, ultimately ruling that he was a resident of Michigan.... In the battle of insurers, the Court of Appeals ultimately ruled for Integon, determining that [Salvador] Lorenzo was a resident of Michigan."

[Full story](#)

### **The MiLW Blog: Rep Assembly: End judicial age limits**

"The State Bar Representative Assembly, after 'vigorous debate,' has approved a resolution to end the constitutionally-mandated age limit for Michigan judges.... Before the Rep Assembly voted on the resolution, former Michigan Supreme Court Justice Marilyn Kelly discussed the report and recommendations of the Michigan Judicial Selection Task Force, which she co-chaired with former 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals Judge James Ryan."

[Full story](#)

### **Muskegon Chronicle: Playing defense: Muskegon County's much-maligned indigent legal defense system headed for scrap heap**

"Muskegon County's much-criticized system of providing attorneys for poor criminal defendants and families with child-neglect cases is about to be scrapped. Replacing it will be something completely new for West Michigan and rare in the state: a county Public Defender Department, with staff attorneys on the county payroll devoted full time to public defense work."

[Full story](#)

### **Oakland County Legal News: School, DHS team up to provide orthodontic care to foster kids**

"On Friday, April 5, 31 children and teens who are permanent wards of Michigan's foster care system received the gift of a lifetime: screening for orthodontic treatments that may well change their lives. The new program is a partnership between [the University of Detroit Mercy School of Dentistry and the Detroit Department of Human services facilitated by For The Seventh Generation, an organization that matches donations of goods and services with foster children, foster families, and young adults aging out of the foster care system.]"

[Full story](#)

### **Traverse City Record-Eagle: Grand Traverse creates courthouse clock fund**

"Grand Traverse County is accepting donations to restore the 112-year-old bell that sits atop the county's circuit courthouse. Grand Traverse County commissioners last month agreed to create an account to accept up to \$10,000 in donations for purchasing a new chiming mechanism for the historic clock tower."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

### **The MiLW Blog: Historic courthouse bell may ring again soon**

[Full story](#)

### **WJBK-TV(2)/Detroit: 36th District Court offers free legal advice on Thurs., Fri.**

"Legal fees can be expensive. For those who can't afford it, Detroit's 36th District Court will offer free legal advice on Thursday and Friday as part of its 56th annual Law Day celebration. Anyone interested is asked to visit Jury Room 218 at the courthouse on 421 Madison St. from 1-4 p.m. on both days."

[Full story](#)